



# Iowa Ag News – Honey

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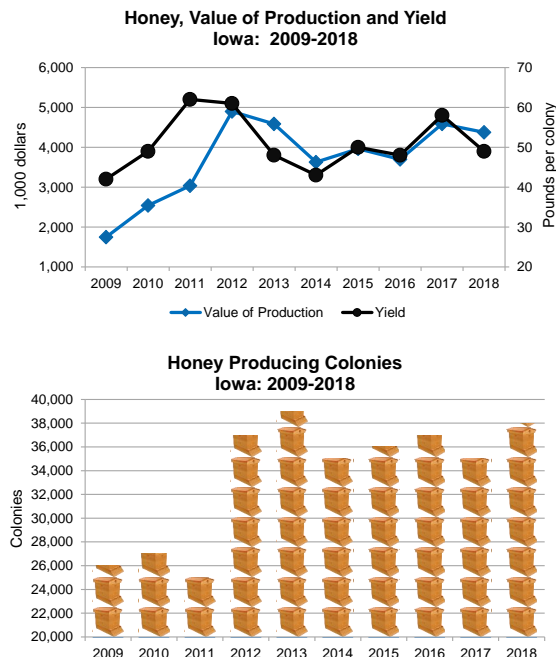
Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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Honey production from producers with five or more colonies in Iowa totaled 1.86 million pounds in 2018 according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service *Honey* report. This was an 8 percent decrease from the 2.03 million pounds produced in 2017. The number of honey producing colonies in the state increased from 35,000 colonies in 2017 to 38,000 colonies in 2018. This number does not include producers with fewer than five colonies or producers who did not harvest honey. Yield per colony in Iowa averaged 49 pounds, down from 58 pounds per colony in 2017. Iowa ranked eighteenth nationally in honey production, unchanged from 2017. Colonies which produced honey in more than one state were counted in each state where the honey was produced. Therefore, at the United States level yield per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted.

On December 15, 2018, producer honey stocks in Iowa, excluding stocks under government loan programs, were 1.01 million pounds, a 3 percent decrease from 2017. The state's 2018 honey crop was valued at \$4.38 million, down 5 percent from the previous year's \$4.59 million. The average price per pound for all marketing channels in Iowa was \$2.35, up 9 cents from 2017.



## Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price, and Value – Selected States and United States: 2017 and 2018

[Operations with five or more colonies that also qualify as a farm. Colonies which produced honey in more than one state were counted in each state.]

State	Producing Colonies <sup>1</sup>		Yield		Production		Honey Stocks Dec 15 <sup>2</sup>		Average Price per Pound <sup>3</sup>		Value of Production <sup>4</sup>	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(1,000 lbs)	(1,000 lbs)	(1,000 lbs)	(1,000 lbs)	(cents)	(cents)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
California .....	335	335	41	41	13,735	13,735	2,198	3,022	216	206	29,668	28,294
Florida .....	205	215	43	49	8,815	10,535	529	737	237	240	20,892	25,284
Georgia .....	99	98	32	34	3,168	3,332	190	200	300	279	9,504	9,296
Idaho .....	95	96	44	31	4,180	2,976	1,045	655	179	196	7,482	5,833
<b>Iowa .....</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>2,030</b>	<b>1,862</b>	<b>1,035</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>4,588</b>	<b>4,376</b>
Louisiana .....	43	45	81	83	3,483	3,735	279	261	193	190	6,722	7,097
Michigan .....	87	92	45	44	3,915	4,048	822	729	242	237	9,474	9,594
Minnesota .....	126	119	62	61	7,812	7,259	1,016	1,161	193	188	15,077	13,647
Montana .....	145	160	72	92	10,440	14,720	2,506	3,680	221	192	23,072	28,262
New York .....	57	56	56	48	3,192	2,688	766	833	303	334	9,672	8,978
North Dakota ....	455	530	74	72	33,670	38,160	4,377	4,579	191	188	64,310	71,741
South Dakota ....	255	255	57	47	14,535	11,985	6,541	5,154	207	198	30,087	23,730
Texas .....	120	132	66	56	7,920	7,392	2,297	1,035	217	206	17,186	15,228
Wisconsin .....	53	51	56	45	2,968	2,295	683	711	282	276	8,370	6,334
<b>United States <sup>5,6</sup> ..</b>	<b>2,683</b>	<b>2,803</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>148,980</b>	<b>152,348</b>	<b>30,662</b>	<b>29,091</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>334,166</b>	<b>333,482</b>

<sup>1</sup> Honey producing colonies are the maximum number of colonies from which honey was harvested during the year. It is possible to harvest honey from colonies which did not survive the entire year.

<sup>2</sup> Stocks held by producers.

<sup>3</sup> Average price per pound based on expanded sales.

<sup>4</sup> Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound.

<sup>5</sup> Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

<sup>6</sup> United States value of production will not equal summation of states.

## UNITED STATES BEE & HONEY

United States honey production in 2018 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 152 million pounds, up 2 percent from 2017. There were 2.80 million colonies producing honey in 2018, up 4 percent from 2017. Yield per colony averaged 54.4 pounds, down 2 percent from the 55.5 pounds in 2017. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, at the United States level yield per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 29.1 million pounds on December 15, 2018, down 5 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

United States honey prices decreased 2 percent during 2018 to 216.6 cents per pound, compared to 219.9 cents per pound in 2017. United States and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through cooperatives, private, and retail channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2017 crop reflect honey sold in 2017 and 2018. Some 2017 crop honey was sold in 2018, which caused some revisions to the 2017 crop prices.

For operations with five or more colonies, the average prices paid in 2018 for honey bee queens, packages, and nucs were \$18, \$86, and \$110 respectively. For operations with five or more colonies, pollination income for 2018 was \$302 million, up 8 percent from 2017. Other income from honey bees for operations with five or more colonies in 2018 was \$94.6 million, up 17 percent from 2017.